



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
MANAGER'S REPORT

DATE ISSUED: August 2, 2000 REPORT NO. 00-158

ATTENTION: Honorable Mayor and City Council

SUBJECT: 1999/2000 Winter Shelter Program - Solutions Consortium Final Report

SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATION ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

BACKGROUND

Attached are final reports submitted by Solutions Consortium and Episcopal Community Services summarizing the accomplishments of the 1999/2000 Winter Shelter Program and the City Works demonstration project.

DISCUSSION

The 1999/2000 Winter Shelter Program was designed to provide services to assist the City's homeless population with moving closer toward self sufficiency during the particularly difficult time of the winter months. This program adds to existing seasonal and year round programs currently operated by nonprofit organizations. This year's shelter program operated December 15, 1999 through April 16, 2000 for single adults, December 13, 1999 through April 13, 2000 for veterans and December 15, 1999 through May 16, 2000 for families. The City again participated in the regional hotel/motel voucher program which operated November 1, 1999 through April 30, 2000 and funded a collaborative demonstration project to provide transitional employment for 12-18 mentally ill homeless individuals referred from the single adult shelter.

The City contracted with Solutions Consortium, a group of nonprofit social service providers and government-sponsored agencies, who assisted with administering the program. The County of San Diego served as the fiscal agent for soliciting and collecting contributions from the 18 municipalities to develop and implement the regional hotel/motel voucher program. The demonstration project was a collaboration with the City, Centre City Development Corporation (CCDC), San Diego Housing Commission, County of San Diego Mental Health Services and Episcopal Community Services (ECS).

The contract with Solutions Consortium provided homeless families and individuals access to a dry and safe environment during periods of inclement weather. As a result in the significant increase in the City's homeless population, the City expanded the number of shelter beds provided to families from 150 to 265, with St. Vincent de Paul Village providing an additional 80 shelter beds for single adults and the San Diego Rescue Mission providing an additional 25 shelter beds for women with children.

As in prior years, the Winter Shelter Program consisted of three temporary shelters open 24 hours per day, seven days a week for 120 to 150 days. The shelters were located in the Downtown and Midway areas of San Diego. The specific site locations were as follows:

- ◆ Newton and 16th Street, operated by St. Vincent de Paul Village which provided 250 beds for single adults;
- ◆ Midway Post Office parking lot, operated by Vietnam Veterans of San Diego, Inc. and provide 150 beds for single men with a focus on serving veterans; and
- ◆ 120 Elm Street, operated by St. Vincent de Paul Village which initially provided 150 beds for families and was expanded to 265 in January 2000.

A total of \$1,048,913 was allocated for the 1999/2000 Winter Shelter Program. Funding sources included: General Fund \$20,184, Community Development Block Grant \$16,169, Emergency Shelter Grant \$242,560, Housing Commission \$445,000, Centre City Development Corporation \$125,000, Community Service \$10,000, Council District 1 - \$55,000, Council District 2 - \$60,000, Council District 5 - \$25,000, Council District 6 - \$25,000 and Council District 7 - \$25,000.

The final report from the Solutions Consortium indicates that services were provided to 4,630 unduplicated homeless persons which includes 579 children. The average number of days shelter service varied for each shelter site. At the family shelter the average length of stay was 41 days, the veterans shelter 28 days and single adult shelter 10 days. They provided housing information and referral services to over 600 individuals and placed 170 veterans and 40 families in transitional or permanent housing. Statistics related to the hotel/motel voucher program are not available at this time.

The transitional employment demonstration project was implemented through a contract with Episcopal Community Services (ECS) and was called "City Works". The program was funded by Centre City Development Corporation with the Housing Commission also donating 12 Section 8 housing vouchers to increase the housing available for the population served. Additional partners include Harvest for the Hungry, the City's HOT team and other downtown services and agencies. Over half of the participants have moved into Section 8 housing. Transitional employment has allowed 11 mentally ill individuals to enhance their living situation. The work team performs supervised trash removal services in the downtown area and have participated in over 200 hours of work. The project has demonstrated excellent potential for success with homeless and formerly homeless individuals who suffer from mental illness. It provides a stable living environment, access to a variety of programs and services through case management and job readiness development. Funds for the program not only provide housing for the participants but also stabilizing services that assist them with achieving a more productive living environment that they experience on the streets.

The success of this year's program can be attributed to the strong partnership with the nonprofit provider community, County Health and Human Service Agency and the financial support received from the Mayor and City Council, Housing Commission and Centre City Development Corporation. Once again, City departments were extremely cooperative in ensuring all vital services were available and were always available to address maintenance, electrical and other issues. In addition, they ensured the necessary services were provided for the timely setup and take down of the two Sprung Structures used to house individuals at the Newton and Post Office sites. The planning has begun for next year's program and will be built on this year's successes.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Debra Fischle-Faulk, Community Services Deputy Director at (619) 236-5990.

Respectfully submitted,

Hank Cunningham
Director, Economic Development &
Community Services

Approved: George I. Loveland
Assistant City Manager

LOVELAND/DFP

Attachment(s) 1. 1999/2000 Seasonal Shelter Report
 2. City Works Housing Report